

GALENA

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ILLINOIS TOWNS

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Illinois Towns

Galena

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Market Square
Galena, Illinois 61036
April 20, 1970

Senator Hudson R. Sours
Senate Post Office
State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Senator Sours:

This letter is in answer to your request for information on the status of the Coatsworth Building here in Galena.

The Coatsworth Building (two four-story brick structures built at the same time by different owners but for many years owned and treated as one building) is located on Main Street midway in the "wall" of historic buildings and approximately a block from the Market House State Memorial. It was constructed in 1856 after a disastrous fire had leveled a large segment of the Main Street area. Construction information (cost, type of brick, general progress, etc.) has been documented from the files of the (Galena) Weekly Northwestern Gazette for that year.

The J.R. Grant Leather Store moved into the shop at 145 Main (in the Coatsworth Building) in September, 1858. The senior Grant did not live in Galena, but kept a tannery in Covington, Kentucky, which supplied leather goods to this branch operation. The store here was managed by Samuel Simpson and Orvil Grant, younger brothers of Ulysses, with periodic visits from their father.

Ulysses S. Grant was living in Missouri near Mrs. Grant's parents, but the panic of 1857, pressures of a growing family and ill health forced him to seek a position with the family business in Galena. He arrived here in April, 1860. The ensuing twelve months were the last of his lifetime during which he was a private citizen--something of a lull before the storm. It was a low but stable period in his life, but his letters do not indicate that he was unhappy or dissatisfied. ("Since leaving St. Louis I have become pretty well inniciated (sic) into the Leather business and like it well. Our business here is prosperous and I have evry (sic) reason to hope, in a few years, to be entirely above the frowns of the world, pecuniarily...Myself and family are all well and highly pleased with this place."--Aug. 7, 1860. "In my new employment I have become pretty conversant, and am much pleased with it. I hope to be a partner secon, and am sanguine that a competency at least can be made out of the business."--c. Dec. 1860. The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Vol. I, p. 357, 359.) He was a typical citizen in an important city of Illinois during a time of uneasiness under the threat of secession and civil war.

Although often referred to only as a clerk, Grant had greater status in the business. His brother, Simpson, was dying of tuberculosis, and U.S. was to assist Orvil in managing the operation. He traveled for the firm, buying and selling, and making collections, and actually held a responsible and respected position.

The Grant Leather Store was U.S. Grant's only reason for coming to Illinois--and is thus the basis for Illinois' claim to the victorious general and President.

After Grant entered the Army the Leather Store remained in the Coatsworth Building. Early in 1864 the business consolidated with that of C.R. Perkins and the newly formed firm of Grant and Perkins moved one block north to 173 Main. About a year later the Grant interest was sold.

Galena has, of course, the Grant Home State Memorial--a residence given to him by citizens of Galena on his victorious return from the war. The only site, other than the Coatsworth Building, closely associated with his prewar year here is the home he rented on the hill, somewhat off the beaten track. The Coatsworth Building on Main Street represents the private citizen Grant--and is located on a site passed by nearly a million visitors annually.

Late in 1968 the Jo Daviess County Housing Authority, a municipal authority using HUD funds, purchased the Coatsworth Building as a site for Senior Citizen Housing. They were, however, prevented from using this site since adjacent properties were needed and owners of one property contested condemnation and demolition of their property under the Historic and Preservation Ordinance. The Court ruled in favor of the property owner. Under this Ordinance the City of Galena is charged with the responsibility of enforcing maintenance of historic buildings, but the Housing Authority has been allowed to let the Coatsworth Building deteriorate. No effort has been made to protect it from the elements--broken windows are not replaced, snow and rain are allowed to damage upper stories because open roof hatches are not closed, pigeons and their evidence abound. It is very apparent that the Housing Authority, the Mayor and the City Council want the building destroyed--they have made no effort of any sort to preserve it.

Early in 1969 our newly formed Galena Preservation and Restoration Association (a not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois) sought help from the National Park Service, and Norman Souder, a N.P.S. architect and historical consultant, examined the building and presented his report, a copy of which is enclosed. The Illinois Arts Council had expressed its interest in our preservation efforts, and helped us secure the services of L. Morgan Yost, an architect-engineer from Kenilworth. He also carefully examined the building and submitted

his findings and recommendations (also enclosed). The recommendations of both of these highly qualified authorities were completely ignored by the Council and Mayor.

The Housing Authority, whose Executive Director is also the City Attorney, in seeking another site for a turnkey Senior Citizen Housing project, was offered a plan which would have included acceptance of the Coatsworth Building thus paving the way for its preservation, but this plan was turned down in favor of a higher bid not involving the building. The Galena Preservation and Restoration Association offered to clean up and temporarily weatherproof the building to prevent further deterioration--at no cost to the Housing Authority--but the offer was ignored. A bid was made to purchase the building, but it too was ignored.

Two HUD-financed feasibility studies within the past 4 years have each given the Coatsworth Building top priority for preservation--because of its historic significance and its importance to the Main Street wall.

The wall may be compared to a jigsaw puzzle--made up of parts of varying sizes and shapes, the totality of which presents a unique and integrated picture of a 19th century city of great influence in the life of the state and nation. Each building which is destroyed, either by alteration or removal, leaves a gap which greatly alters the esthetic and historical aspects of the over-all picture. The Coatsworth Building is important to the wall both for its position in history and for its physical presence in that block and in the wall. (Every building in the block except one--which was built in the early 1840's--was built in the 1854-56 period.)

Every conceivable effort which private citizens can make has been exerted to save this building--including thousands of dollars in legal costs. We are convinced that protection must come from a source above the local level. The need is urgent because the city is pressing for demolition immediately on unsubstantiated grounds.

Since last October the historic district of Galena has been on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of this no federal funds can be spent for demolition of the Coatsworth Building--but the city believes that it has this authority and is anxious to use it.

Tourists are appalled at even the thought of any demolition of Galena's historic buildings. When this situation was brought to the attention of the public through an article in the Chicago Tribune two years ago many readers wrote protesting the threat to the Coatsworth and adjacent buildings. Contributions were even sent to the Mayor to assist in preservation, but this was never mentioned to Council members.

Two Departments of the State of Illinois--Conservation and Business and Economic Development--have both expressed concern at the situation here, as has the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Outside interest has made no impression on the Council and Mayor--even though Galena's greatest "industry" is and always will be Tourism.

Loss of this building would be a "foot in the door" for a proposed urban renewal project which the Mayor is backing but which is vigorously opposed by the citizenry. We must lock the barn door now. An historic building cannot be replaced!

The Galena Preservation and Restoration Association is willing to wage a campaign to raise the necessary funds to preserve and restore the building. HUD funds are available for such a project--if owned by state or local public bodies. (It is hardly necessary to state that present ownership--a public body, is not interested in its preservation--nor would the city be interested if it acquired ownership.)

This building must again take its place as an operating unit in Galena's economy. There is an immediate need for shop space to serve the growing number of tourists. The four shops of the Coatsworth Building would not remain empty. A carefully-done restoration of the Grant Leather Store belongs in its original location--this is essential!

With three upper floors (once used as storage for shops below and for lodge and meeting halls) the structure has unlimited possibilities. It is not inconceivable to think of this as an historical reference and research center with conference rooms and tourist orientation and information center. Or, craft studios could use the upper floors and sell items in a shop on ground level. A good usage can easily be found for the available space.

We have been greatly interested in the results of the restoration of the Lincoln-Herndon Building on the Old Capitol square in Springfield. An old and historical building has been meticulously restored and now presents a happy marriage of a modern business with a museum--from which both benefit. Here in Galena a pilot project such as the Coatsworth Building would not only protect and preserve one of Galena's most historic business buildings, but would serve as an incentive and inspiration to other owners to correctly restore their buildings.

Any efforts on your part on behalf of the preservation of the Coatsworth Building will be greatly appreciated by those who are trying so desperately to save it--and by the millions of visitors who pour much-needed dollars into Galena's economy and in return receive inspiration from this historical city.

Sincerely yours,

Frank R. Einsweiler
Frank Einsweiler, President

Enc.

c.c.

The Honorable John B. Anderson, M.C.

Sen. Everett E. Laughlin

Mr. John Daly

Director Ray Dickerson

Acting-Director Dan Malkovich

Mr. William Alderfer

Mr. Gunnar Benson

Mr. Ralph G. Newman

Dr. John Y. Simon

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry

Kathryn D. Oestreich
(Mrs.) Kathryn D. Oestreich, Sec'y

GALENA PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION
ASSOCIATION



Lincoln Lore

May, 1979

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Number 1695

LINCOLN AND WASHBURNE

Though historians have praised President Lincoln's skilled handling of Congress, their discussions of the subject are usually confined to the Cabinet crisis of 1862 and to his abilities to handle difficult personalities like Charles Sumner's. The President's relations with the House of Representatives have been little explored. The tendency to think of Lincoln as a "Whig in the White House," to borrow the language of David Donald's famous essay on Lincoln's theory of the Presidency, reinforces the lack of interest in this question. The Whig theory of the Presidency, after all, dictated that the President simply enforce the will of Congress, use the veto sparingly, and — as Lincoln explained the theory in the election of 1848 — not even force a party platform on the country. A President following such a policy would not "handle" Congress at all. The best student of the Civil War Congress, Leonard P. Curry, concludes that Congress made considerable inroads on executive power during Lincoln's Presidency, though there was nothing like the achievement of Congressional dominance that would come in the Johnson years that followed the Civil War.

Whether this view of the decline of executive power *vis-a-vis* Congress in the Civil War years is true or not, its effect has been to stifle curiosity about Lincoln's friends in Congress. He did have friends there, and two notable examples were Isaac N. Arnold and Elihu B. Washburne. Arnold was not only a great partisan of Lincoln's cause but also an early Lincoln biographer. Yet it is almost impossible to find published material on this Illinois Congressman.

Elihu B. Washburne, if he had a less direct relationship with Lincoln than Arnold, had a longer and more significant career in Congress, and he was close enough to President Lincoln to merit considerable attention.

Washburne was born in Maine in 1816. He was named Elihu Benjamin Washburn but added an "e" to his last name in order to revert to what he thought was the proper spelling of the name among his English ancestors. This has caused some confusion because he had two brothers, Cadwallader and Israel Washburn, who also became prominent in American politics. Although they did not spell their last names identically, these three brothers became a powerful force in American politics. In fact, the Wash-

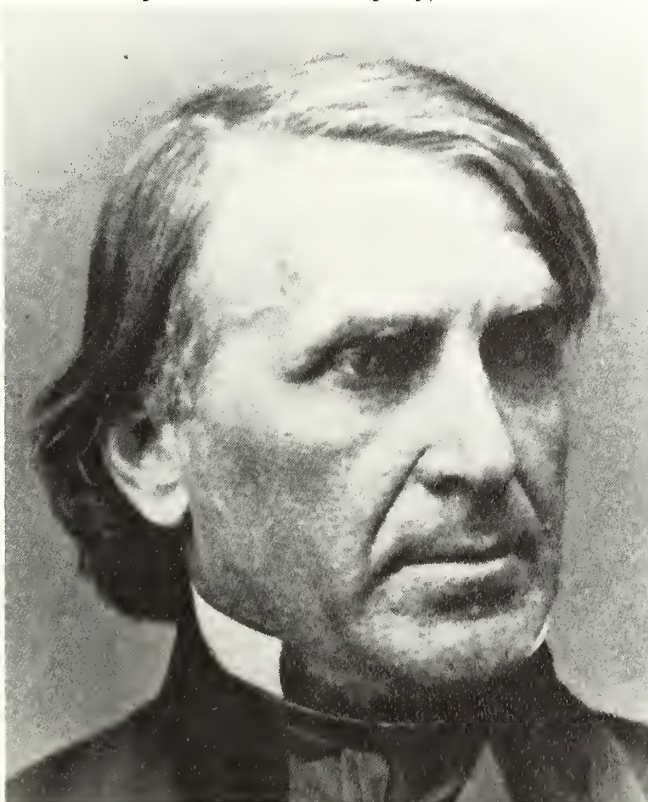
burns hold the distinction of being the only family to have three brothers in the same Congress representing three different states.

After various attempts to find a career, Washburne attended the Harvard Law School, became a member of the Massachusetts bar, and moved to the Illinois lead-mining boomtown of Galena in 1840. A Henry Clay Whig, Washburne met Lincoln the very year he moved to Galena. It was the year of the great log cabin campaign for William Henry Harrison. Their closest association, however, came at the time of the formation of the Republican party and after.

Washburne was elected to the first of eight consecutive terms in the United States House of Representatives in 1852. He was then still a Whig, but he was among the earliest converts to the Republican cause. As early as November of 1854, he could boast to Lincoln that every representative and senator sent to the state legislature from his northern Illinois district was a Republican, and this was almost two years before Lincoln would embrace that new party label. Washburne shared with Lincoln an animosity to the Know-Nothing party, which was at the time the principal competitor of the

Republicans for anti-Democratic voters. In 1854, for example, he helped carry an amendment to the homestead law which allowed those aliens who had declared their intention to become American citizens to acquire public lands in the same way full-fledged citizens did.

Washburne was a staunch supporter of Lincoln's drive to win a seat in the United States Senate in 1855. He and his friends saw every member of the state legislature from his district (the state legislatures still chose the United States Senators), and he told Lincoln how each man was leaning. He warned the candidate: "We are pretty ultra on the slave question . . . , and you will have to take pretty high ground." Washburne worked to gain Free Soil support for Lincoln. He suggested that Lincoln write a letter describing his positions on the restoration of the Missouri Compromise, the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, the admission of new slave states, and other aspects of the great slavery question which Washburne thought would override all others. He offered to show the letter to Salmon Chase and to get Chase to write Free Soilers in Illinois



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. Elihu B. Washburne.

on Lincoln's behalf. Washburne himself saw Joshua Giddings, found him to be Lincoln's "strongest possible friend," and reported Giddings's willingness to "walk clear to Illinois to elect" Lincoln. Giddings wrote Illinois's most successful radical antislavery politician, Owen Lovejoy, twice to urge support for Lincoln's candidacy.

Washburne was an experienced politician, and, when he saw trouble brewing, he reported it. He told Lincoln of one influential friend in his district who opposed Lincoln's candidacy because Springfield's political influence had always been used against the interests of the northern part of the state. Thus an astonished Lincoln had to deal with the perennial sectionalism that plagued Illinois politics. "For a Senator to be the impartial representative of his whole State," Lincoln thundered in his reply, "is so plain a duty, that I pledge myself to the observance of it without hesitation; but not without some mortification that any one should suspect me of an inclination to the contrary." For eight years a Representative of Sangamon County in the legislature, Lincoln, "in a conflict of interests between that and other counties," would have felt a "duty to stick to Old Sangamon," but he could not recall any such conflict with members from the northern part of the state. He could recollect only "co-operating on measures of policy." The Illinois-Michigan Canal "was then the great Northern measure, and it, from first to last, had our votes as readily as the votes of the North itself."

Washburne had the politician's gift for turning a man's trouble to party advantage. One member of the legislature, Wait Talcott, was "in the biggest kind of a lawsuit for an alleged infringement of a patent." Washburne advised Talcott's agent to seek Lincoln's services in the case. If Talcott did so, Washburne was sure it would "be a good pull on him" to support Lincoln for Senator.

Washburne's and Lincoln's efforts failed in 1855, of course, and in 1858, when Lincoln tried again to reach the Senate, Washburne was again in Lincoln's camp. But now there was a complicating factor. Although Washburne was an early and dedicated Republican, he felt keenly that the party was "not so large but what it will hold a few more." He supported Lincoln's candidacy, but he had expressed a hope that Senator Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's opponent, might become a Republican. Douglas had broken with the Democratic Buchanan administration over Kansas policy, and Washburne for a time thought the break decisive for Douglas's future loyalties. Lincoln, on the other hand, was nervous about talk from Eastern Republicans that the party in Illinois ought to let Douglas retain his seat unopposed. He did not trust Douglas, and this strategy would squeeze Lincoln out of any hopes for a Senate seat. Rumors of Washburne's shaky position on the Senate contest made Lincoln's supporters anxious. On April 28, 1858, Washburne told William Herndon that he could not "see the wisdom of abusing" Douglas, "as matters stand now." Four days later he was writing Lincoln much the same thing, explaining, though, that he "had no idea of making him Senator or making him a leader." As for the "idea . . . industriously circulated in our State, that the republicans outside the State were wanting to sell us out in Illinois," Washburne assured Lincoln from his Washington vantage point that "such stuff ought not to be believed for a moment." On May 15th Lincoln expressed himself as "quite satisfied" that Washburne had done no wrong. He was willing "that the matter may drop." By May 31st Washburne was reporting that Douglas had "ceased associating with our folks, but is very thick with the other side. He is understood to repudiate all sympathy with republicans and desires no support from them."

Washburne found Lincoln's Presidential nomination in 1860 "so unexpected we could hardly believe it," but, as a member of the Republican Executive Congressional Committee for the campaign, he promised to "devote my whole soul and energies to the campaign." Interestingly enough, he reported that Stephen Douglas thought the choice of Lincoln "the strongest that could have been made." Like many others, Congressman Washburne immediately advised the candidate to "keep very quiet and out of the way as much as possible."

Washburne's residence in the Capital made him an especially valuable reporter for Lincoln. In May he informed the candidate that "Pennsylvanians of American [i.e., Know-Nothing] proclivities are some what troubled" by the planks in the Republican platform which affirmed the rights of immigrants. They had appealed to Washburne to suggest that

Lincoln's letter accepting the nomination "say nothing about the platform, so they can support you without committing themselves to those planks." Washburne asserted that "we must have" the American element in that state; he thought the request "worth considering." Lincoln ignored the advice.

In Congress, Washburne was more a doer than an orator, but on May 29th he delivered a speech, later widely reprinted as *Abraham Lincoln, His Personal History and Public Record*. Washburne admitted that it "was hastily got up," but he thought it "necessary . . . that your record while in Congress should be brought out in answer to the misrepresentations already made." A full page of the eight-page pamphlet explained that Lincoln voted in favor of supplies and land bounties for soldiers even though he opposed the Mexican War. The Republican Congressional Committee printed the speech and made it available for fifty cents per hundred. Copies of it were among the 40,000 speeches and documents (on the average) which the Committee distributed at the height of the campaign in the fall (the documents were franked by the Congress's free-mailing privilege, a form of Federal funding of election campaigns in Lincoln's day). The Committee was inexhaustible in its attentions to voters. One of Washburne's letters introduced Lincoln to one H.P. Scholte, an Iowan of Dutch descent, who had been in Washington translating Republican campaign materials into Dutch.

As election day approached, Washburne, who adhered to the philosophy that "there is no telling who will be governor

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, His Personal History and Public Record.

SPEECH

OF

HON. E. B. WASHBURN, OF ILLINOIS.

Delivered in the U. S. House of Representatives, May 29, 1860.

The House being in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union—

Mr. WASHBURN, of Illinois, said:

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Republican party, through its proper organization, has placed in nomination for President of the United States, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, of Illinois. The people, who will be called upon to pass upon that nomination, have a right to inquire into the life, the character, and the political opinions, of the man who is commended to their suffrages for the highest office in their gift. The State which I in part represent on this floor, having been honored by this nomination, I come here to-day to speak of the personal and political history of the candidate. I have known Mr. Lincoln well for twenty years. I have known him in private life, I have known him at the bar, and have been associated with him in every political contest in our State since the advent of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," in 1840. While I may speak with the accents of a strong personal friendship, I shall speak with the frankness of conscious truth, and, I trust, without exaggeration.

Springing from the humblest ranks in life, and unaided by the adventitious supports of family or wealth, Mr. Lincoln has reached his present exalted position by the strength of his will, the power of his intellect, and the honesty of his heart. He was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, February 12, 1808; his family removed to Spencer county, Indiana, in 1816, where he passed his boyhood amid the roughest hardships and the most trying experiences of a frontier life. Without schools, and almost without books, he spent his time amid the wild and romantic scenes of the border, alleviating the hard labors of the farm by the sport of the huntsman. Of fine physical development, with a vigorous intellect, quick intelligence, ready wit, and genial character, he gave early evidences of the superiority he has since attained. His first advent into the great world, from the comparative seclusion of his frontier home, was down the Wabash and

Ohio rivers in charge of a flat-boat, of a class known to all the old river men of the West as "brood-horns." These boats, laden with the productions of the farmers, floated down stream until a market was found for the cargo; and when that was disposed of, the boat itself was sold, and those in charge made their way back, in the best manner they could, to their homes. A great many persons have heard Mr. Lincoln relate, with inimitable effect, the anecdotes of his experience of that portion of his life.

In 1830, Mr. Lincoln emigrated to that State, with which his great name has now become historically connected. He passed the first year in Macon county, and actively labored on a farm, where he and a fellow-laborer, by the name of John Hanks, split three thousand rails. This portion of the history of Mr. Lincoln's life gave rise to the incident in the late Republican State Convention at Decatur, in Macon county, which awakened the intensest enthusiasm of that vast concourse of citizens from all parts of the State. Mr. Lincoln was present as a spectator in that Convention, and was invited to take a seat upon the platform. When he had taken his seat, it was announced to the Convention that John Hanks, an old Democrat, who had grown gray in the service of that party, desired to make a contribution to the Convention; and the offer being accepted, forthwith two old-time fence rails, decorated with flags and streamers, were borne through the crowd into the Convention, bearing the inscription:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
THE RAIL CANDIDATE
FOR PRESIDENT IN 1860.
Two rails from a lot of 3,000 made in
1830 by John Hanks and Abe Lin-
coln.

The effect was electrical. One spontaneous burst of applause went up from all parts of the "wigwam." Of course, Mr. Lincoln was called out, and made an explanation of the matter. He

PUBLISHED BY THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. PRICE 50 CENTS PER HUNDRED.

From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 2. This Dutch translation of Lincoln's Cooper Institute Address, perhaps the work of F. P. Scholte, was an 1860 campaign document. It is the only Dutch title listed for 1860 in Jay Monaghan's *Lincoln Bibliography*, 1839-1939.

Start bill May 16 1905 NO 1

De Republikeinsche Party verdedigd enz.

REDEVOERING

VAN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

IN HET COOPER INTIJUT: FEBRUARY 27, 1860

Mr. President en Medeburgers van New York:

De daadzaken waarmede ik my deelen avond zal bezig houden zijn meermalen out en bekend, ook is er niets nieuws in het gebruik dat ik er van zal maken. Indien er eenige nieuwheid in is, het zal zijn de manier om de daadzaken te voorstellen, en de gevolgtrekkingen en opmerkingen die uit deze voorstelling voortvloeien.

Senator Douglas zeide, in zyne redevoering laatste beris, te Columbus, in Ohio, als opgegeven in de "Nieuw York Times."

"Onze vaders, toen zy het Gouvernement vormden waaronder wy leven, verstonden dit vraagstuk juist zoo goed, en zelfs beter als wy tegenwoordig doen."

Ik stem dit ten volle toe, en neem het aan als een tekst voor deze redevoering. Ik doe dit omdat het een juist en door beiden erkend aanvangpunt levert voor een verhandeling der Republikeinen en die vleugel van de Democratie aangevoerd door Senator Douglas. Het laat eenvoudig het onderzoek over: "Hoe verstonden die vaders het vermette vraagstuk?"

Wat is het grondwerk van het Gouvernement waaronder wy leven? Het antwoord moet zijn: "De Constitutie der Vereenigde Staten." Die Constitutie bestaat uit de oorspronkelijke, opgesteld in 1787 (en waaronder het tegenwoordige Gouvernement het eerst in werking trad), en twaalf daarna gemaakte verbeteringen, waarvan de tien eerste gemaakt werden in 1789.

Wie waren onze vaders die de Constitutie maakten? Ik veronderstel de 39 die het oorspronkelijke stuk tekenden moogen met regt onze vaders genoemd worden die dat gedeelte van ons tegenwoordig Gouvernement ontwierpen. Het is volkomen waar niet alleen dat zy getrouw vertegenwoordigden het denkbeeld en gevoel van het gehele volk ter dien tyd. Hunne algemeene bekeude namen behooren nu niet te worden herhaald. Ik neem dan deze 39 voor het tegenwoordig als onze vaders die het Gouvernement ontworpen waaronder wy nu leven. Wat is nu het vraagstuk het welk volgens de tekst, deze vaders juist zoo goed, en zelfs beter verstonden, dan wy nu doen?

Het is dit. Verbedt een juiste verdeling tusschen plaatselyk en federaal gezag, oftewel in de Constitutie aan ons Gouvernement het beheer in betrekking tot Slavery in ons Federaal Grondgebied?

Hierop antwoordt Douglas bevestigend en de Republikeinen ontkennend. Dit vormt het verschil, en dit verschil, dit vraagstuk, is juist dat geene wat de tekst verklaard dat onze

From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 3. Washburne's campaign speech for Lincoln.

till after the election," was not overconfident, but he warned Lincoln that he would be "utterly overrun" with office-seekers if he won. And the Illinois Congressman, though "reluctant to be among . . . the crowd," did say that he would like to see Lincoln too. He did so on November 12th and "found Old Abe in fine spirits and excellent health, and quite undisturbed by the blusterings of the disunionists and traitors." When he returned to Washington, Washburne found that "secession feeling has assumed proportions of which I had but a faint conception," and he told Lincoln that "our friends generally in the west are not fully apprised of the imminent peril which now environs us." Washburne expressed Congress's feelings for "conciliation but firmness" and called for "masterly inactivity."

Washburne's hopes rose and fell, but, in general, he sensed that real trouble was brewing. Having had some acquaintance with Winfield Scott when he was the Whig candidate for President in 1852, Washburne was now able to see the old general in Washington and keep Lincoln, who was still in Springfield, in touch with the crisis over Federal forts in the South and later with the security measures for the city and Lincoln's inauguration. He gave Lincoln advice: not to compromise on the platform, to procure a private secretary who would not sell his influence and who knew etiquette and French, and to stay in a private residence in Washington before the inauguration. He opposed Simon Cameron's appointment to the Cabinet vigorously.

Early in January, Washburne became alarmed about a conspiracy to seize the Capital and prevent the inauguration. With William Seward and two other members of Congress, Washburne employed two New York detectives to investigate the rumors of conspiracies. He referred to them in later letters as "our friends from N.Y.," and expressed great fears about

the state of opinion in Baltimore. Washburne's fears calmed late in January but rose again early in February. He was in the end the only man on the platform when Lincoln came into Washington secretly for his inauguration.

Unfortunately for the historian, once Washburne and Lincoln were together in Washington, the correspondence between them decreased in frequency and importance. They no longer had to discuss political matters by mail. As a Congressman, Washburne became the particular champion of fellow Galena townsman Ulysses S. Grant. He saw to everything for General Grant's career from military promotions to the coining of celebratory medals. His loyalty knew no limits. When Grant issued his infamous Order No. 11 banning "Jews, as a class" from the Department of the Tennessee late in 1862, Lincoln eventually received so many protests that he revoked it. Washburne protested Lincoln's revocation, saying that he considered "it the wisest order yet made by a military Command." For a period in 1863, Washburne accompanied Grant on campaigns and gave a wonderful portrait of that colorful and dedicated soldier. His "entire baggage consists of a tooth brush," Washburne said. A thirteen-year-old boy carried the general's sword. He had no servant, no blanket, no overcoat, and no clean shirt.

In Congress, Washburne loyally supported the administration's war effort. His view of the task was simple. As he expressed it after the Battle of Bull Run, "We will whip the traitors yet. Their barbarities towards our wounded will arouse a spirit of vengeance which will not be appeased till their leaders are all hung and their followers are driven into the gulf." He voted with the more zealous Republicans and was a tough man in a floor battle. When Congressmen debated the bill to emancipate slaves in the District of Columbia in the spring of 1862, Washburne knew who had the votes to win: "If gentlemen of the other side offer amendments, let us hear them, and then vote them down." Like fellow Illinois Congressman Isaac Arnold, Washburne was



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 4. Washburne's favorite general, U. S. Grant.

SPEECHES AND DOCUMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION BY THE UNION CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

Abraham Lincoln—"Slavery and its issues indicated by his Speeches, Letters, Messages, and Proclamations." 16 pages; two dollars per hundred.

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Hon. M. Russell Thayer—"Reconstruction of Rebel States." 16 pages; two dollars per hundred.

Hon. James F. Wilson—"A Free Constitution." 16 pages; two dollars per hundred.

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Hon. H. Winter Davis—"The Expulsion of Long." 8 pages; one dollar per hundred.

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Hon. James Harlan—"Title to Property in Slaves." 8 pages; one dollar per hundred.

Hon. Daniel Clark—"Amendment to Constitution." 8 pages; one dollar per hundred.

Hon. John C. Ten Eyck—"Reconstruction in the States." 8 pages; one dollar per hundred.

Hon. Reverdy Johnson—"Amendment to the Constitution." 16 pages; two dollars per hundred.

Hon. J. D. Defrees—"Thoughts for Honest Democrats." 16 pages; two dollars per hundred.

Biographical Sketch of Andrew Johnson, candidate for the Vice Presidency. 16 pages; two dollars per hundred.

Hon. J. D. Defrees—"The War commenced by the Rebels." 16 pages; two dollars per hundred.

Numerous Speeches and Documents not included in the foregoing will be published for distribution, and persons willing to trust the discretion of the Committee can remit their orders with the money, and have them filled with the utmost promptitude, and with the best judgment as to price and adaptation to the locality where the Speeches are to be sent.

Printed by L. Towers for the Union Congressional Committee.

From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

an ardent supporter of the bill to make the old Illinois and Michigan Canal of Whig days a ship canal connecting the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes.

Washburne was among the earliest to seek Lincoln's commitment to run for reelection, asking him to "let some of your confidential friends know your wishes" as early as October of 1863. He was a member of the Union Executive Congressional Committee for the campaign and once again franked thousands of speeches and documents. He even assessed Lincoln's Cabinet members \$250 each for the circulation of documents. He became quite alarmed at the state of opinion in his home state and repeatedly pleaded with the President to furlough Illinois soldiers to vote in the election. He acted as an intermediary with Grant when Lincoln wished to use a letter from Grant for campaign purposes. The general replied to Washburne's inquiry that Lincoln could use "anything I have ever written to him as he sees fit," but added: "I think however for him to attempt to answer all the charges the opposition will bring against him will be like setting a maiden to work to prove her chastity."

Like others of Lincoln's friends in Congress, Washburne is a figure badly in need of a biography. The sketch of his career here is suggestive of his importance and of the illumination such a biography would bring to our understanding of the Sixteenth President.

Editor's Note: This article is based on the following letters from Washburne to Lincoln in the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress: December 19, 1854; December 26, 1854; January 17, 1855; May 2, 1858; May 31, 1858; May 19, 1860; May 20, 1860; May 30, 1860; December 9, 1860; January 6, 1863; and May 1, 1863. Grant's letter to Washburne about Lincoln's use of his letters is also in that collection (September 21, 1864).

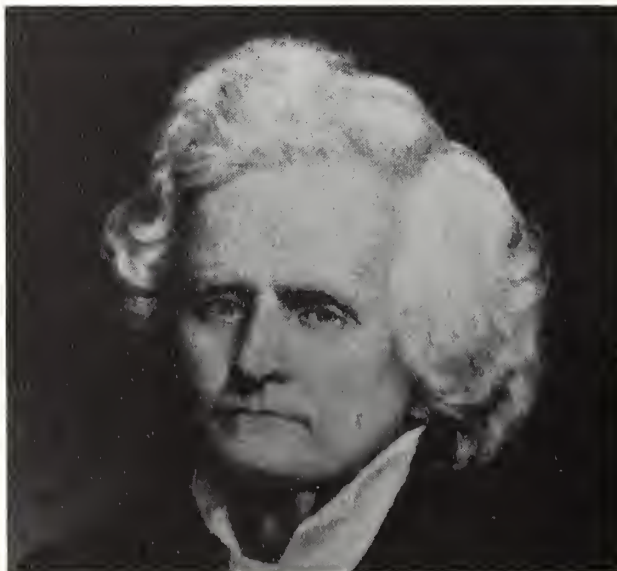
LINCOLN AUTOGRAPHED DEBATES: STEPHEN T. LOGAN COPY

Many would say that this, the sixth article in a series on the presentation copies of the *Political Debates Between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas in the Celebrated Campaign of 1858, in Illinois*, should have been the first. The copy presented to the "Hon. S.T. Logan, From his friend A. Lincoln" is the only known copy signed in ink. Harry Pratt, who published the first survey of these famous books in *Manuscripts* in the summer of 1954, and Charles Hamilton, the famous manuscript dealer, believed that this was very likely the first copy Lincoln gave away. Their theory was that Lincoln discovered when he signed this book that the soft paper caused the ink to smear and thereafter inscribed the copies in pencil.

FIGURE 5. Washburne's committee franked speeches on this list by the thousands in 1864. Washburne did not include a speech of his own on the list, but other members of the committee did. The committee sent circulars and speeches to Republican groups. On the backs of the speeches, they advertised other available speeches. One of these lists is pictured here.

Stephen Trigg Logan was Lincoln's second law partner and a lifelong friend. Of those who received the known presentation copies, Logan was by far the most closely associated with Lincoln. If he gave copies to David Davis or to John G. Nicolay, for example, they have never come to light.

The Logan copy was in the hands of the Logan family until 1946. Logan's great-granddaughter, Martha Coleman Bray, received the book at the death of her father. He was Christopher Bush Coleman, the son of Lewis Harrison Coleman, who married Stephen T. Logan's daughter Jennie. She sold it to William H. Townsend, a noted Lincoln collector and author from Lexington, Kentucky. Townsend at one time owned two presentation copies of the *Debates*, the Logan copy and the copy given to Job Fletcher. In 1953 he sold the Fletcher copy to the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, which in turn sold it to Lincoln collector Justin G. Turner of Hollywood, California. Sometime later, Turner also acquired Townsend's other copy. In 1968 Victor B. Levit purchased the Logan copy from a sale of Turner's collection at a Charles Hamilton Autographs, Inc., auction. Mr. Levit of the law firm of Long & Levit in San Francisco still owns the Logan copy and very kindly sent me much of the information on which this article is based.



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 6. Stephen T. Logan.

U.S. Grant Home

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency



The U. S. Grant Home, August 1865

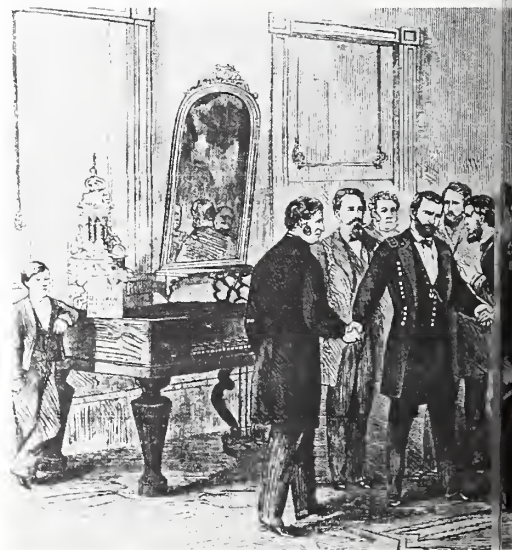
U. S. Grant Home

On August 18, 1865, Galena celebrated the return of its Civil War hero General Ulysses S. Grant. Following a jubilant procession, much flag waving, and speeches, a group of Galena citizens presented the General with a handsome furnished house on Bouthillier Street. The house is managed by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency as the U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site.

Grant in Galena

Grant and his family arrived in Galena in the spring of 1860. He had ended a fifteen-year military career six years earlier, but had enjoyed little business success as a civilian. He hoped to reverse his economic misfortune by moving to northwestern Illinois, where he would work in the Galena store owned by his father and managed by his younger brothers, Simpson and Orvil. Grant was a clerk in name only; he spent

considerable time away from the store, "travelling through the Northwest considerably during the winter of 1860-61.



*Restoration of the Grant Home continues to y
appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newsp*

[They] had customers in all the little towns in south-west Wisconsin, south-east Minnesota, and northeast Iowa." Until he left Galena in the spring of 1861 to serve in the Civil War, Grant and his wife, Julia, rented a modest brick home on the west side of the river.

The Hero's Homecoming

In 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Grant left Galena to join the U.S. Army, ending a seven-year hiatus from the military. He was commissioned colonel of the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment and was promoted to progressively significant commands of Union forces. A strong and capable leader, Grant engineered the Union victory at Vicksburg in 1863, which helped turn the tide of the war. In March 1864 Grant was appointed lieutenant general and commanded the Union army to war's end. On April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his troops to Grant at Appomattox, and Grant's image as a war hero was complete.

On August 18, 1865, Galena greeted the return of its victorious General with a



U. S. Grant in 1879, two years after leaving the White House

grand celebration. A "grand triumphal arch" spanned Main Street, and a holiday atmosphere prevailed with a jubilant procession, speeches, and evening fireworks. Julia Grant recalled that "there was a tremendous and enthusiastic outpouring of people to welcome him. . . . After a glorious triumphal ride around the hills and valleys, so brilliant with smiles and flowers, we were conducted to a lovely villa exquisitely furnished with everything good taste could desire."

The Grant Home

The brick house, which was designed by William Dennison, had been constructed in 1860 for former City Clerk Alexander J. Jackson. Thomas B. Hughlett, on behalf of only a small group of local Republicans, purchased the house for \$2,500 in June 1865 and presented it to Grant two months later. The house is typical of the Italianate Bracketed style, which is characterized by well-defined rectilinear shapes, projecting eaves supported by brackets, low-pitched roof, and balustraded balconies over covered porches.

But Grant spent little time in the Galena house. Following his election as president



with the latest work based on drawings that in November 1868.

in 1868 he visited only occasionally. In 1873 Grant commented that "although it is probable I will never live much time among you, but in the future be only a visitor as I am at present, . . . I hope to retain my residence here. . . . I expect to cast my vote here always." The house was maintained by caretakers in anticipation of the President's visits, the local newspaper reporting that it was "in excellent order and ready for occupation at any time," adding that "visitors are always admitted."

Grant made his final visits to his Galena home in 1879 and 1880. At that time he found that several changes had been made—"a new sidewalk laid in front of the premises, the outbuildings repaired, the trees handsomely trimmed, a new and commodious wash house built and other improvements made." The wash house was torn down in the 1930s because it was believed that the addition was "not authentic to the Grant period." Later research and archaeology confirmed the structure's authenticity.

State Acquisition and Restoration

In 1904 Grant's children gave the house to the City of Galena "with the understanding that this property is to be kept as a memorial to the late General Ulysses S. Grant, and for no other purpose." However, maintaining Grant's home proved too costly for the city and the Grant Home Association, so in 1931 the city deeded the house to the State of Illinois.

A thorough restoration project was undertaken in 1955. Considerable research was undertaken as the house was returned to its 1870s appearance. Fortunately, much of the furniture used by Grant and his family remained in the house. Restoration continues as the home is returned to its appearance as pictured in the November 14, 1868, issue of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*.

Ulysses S. Grant Chronology

- April 27, 1822. Hiram Ulysses Grant born at Point Pleasant, Ohio.
- May 29, 1839. Arrived at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. A mistake in the records changed Grant's name to Ulysses S. Grant, which he carried the rest of his life.
- June, 1843. Grant graduated from West Point.
- 1846-1847. Participated in the Mexican War.
- August 22, 1848. Married Julia Dent of St. Louis.
- May 30, 1850. Frederick Dent Grant born.
- July 22, 1852. Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., nicknamed Buck, born.
- June 11, 1854. Resigned from the Army.
- July 4, 1855. Ellen "Nellie" Grant born.
- February 6, 1858. Jesse Root Grant, Jr., born.
- Spring, 1860. Grant arrived in Galena.
- April 18, 1861. Fort Sumter fired upon by Confederates.
- June 17, 1861. Became a colonel for the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment.
- July 4, 1863. Took Vicksburg.
- April 9, 1865. General Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Grant at Appomattox, Virginia, ending the war.
- July 25, 1866. Grant appointed general of the armies of the U.S.
- November 3, 1868. Grant and Schuyler Colfax elected president and vice-president.
- November 3, 1872. Grant and Henry Wilson elected president and vice-president.
- March 4, 1877. Grant retired from the White House.
- July 23, 1885. Grant died at Mt. McGregor, New York.
- December 14, 1902. Julia Dent Grant died.



The restored dining room



Visit the Nearby Old Market House

The Old Market House State Historic Site is located on Commerce Street just one block east of Main Street. The Greek Revival style structure was built by the City of Galena in 1845-1846, and it now houses exhibits on the history of Galena. A display on Galena architecture is complemented by a short narrated slide show.

Information

The U.S. Grant Home and the Old Market House State Historic Sites are open daily from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Both are closed New Year's, Thanksgiving, and Christmas days. Groups of 25 or more must have a reservation. Groups of minors must have at least one responsible adult for each 15 minors.

For additional information, write Site Manager, U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site, Box 333, Galena, IL 61036, or phone 815-777-3310, 815-777-0248.

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